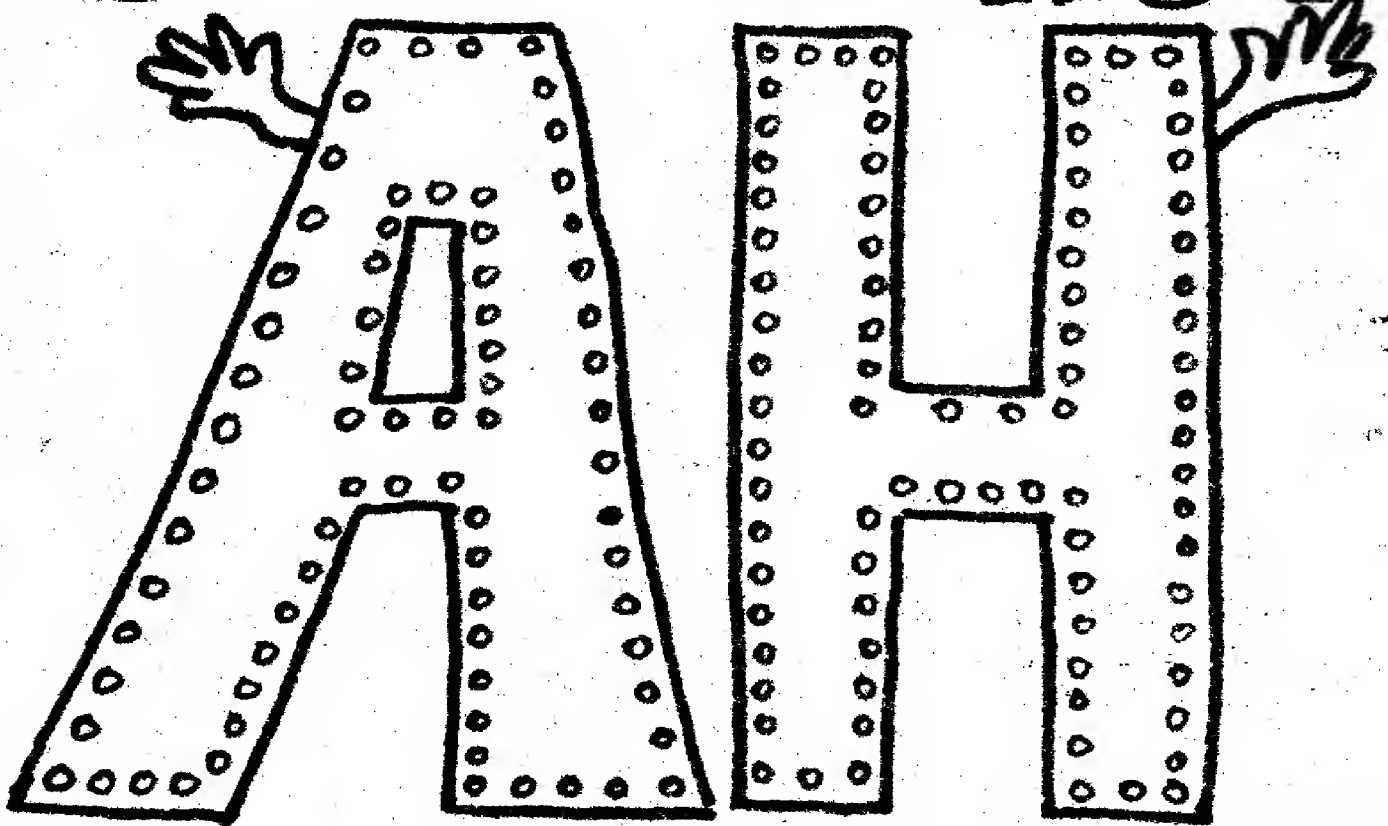


IMPASSABLE

DIPLOMACY



"Diplomacy gets a big hand"

ISSUE #65, May 10, 1976

Impassable is a postal journal of Diplomacy published and edited by John Boyer, 117 Garland Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013. Phone: (717) 249-1343, between 9 and 10:30 p.m., E.D.S.T., any night except Wednesdays. Subscriptions sell at the rate of 10 issues for \$2.00. This is a tri-weekly gamezine, a subsidiary of Chapel Hill Publications, founded in March of 1972. A member of I.D.A.

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STAND-BY POOL

None are being called upon this time which is good since it means the games are moving well, but we have a few new people on the list: Fujihara, Brooks, Kelly, Kendter, Luft, Blank, Swies, Albano, Hyatt, Birsan, Bear, Kador, McIlvaine, Gallagher, Hinmon.

My thanks for those of you on the list who have done Impassable a good service by standing by!

EDITORIAL

-or-

"Honesty is like a river, don't drown in it."

Some may once again yell at me for switching on format, but I wanted to do it again to get a better feel and perhaps encourage someone to buy my wax stencils (No, Virginia, nobody wants my wax stencils for a cheap, dirt cheap that is, price of only \$70.00!!). Until I sell them, I'm stuck with them...only one person even asked for a free sample to try it out on their machine! These wax stencils is made for the Getstetner machine. They are the plain wax type without any film cover. They are for short runs up to about 500 copies. (Are you going to run more than 500 copies?) Help Impassable go to the new format by buying my wax stencils...

What is the meaning of the above nonsensical proverb? Well, that dates back to 1965. Considering what goes on today in the world at large as well as in our hobby, it is worth repeating in print. I wrote the proverb while still in high school (Yes, Virginia, I was in high school for 1965...I can remember John Kennedy's assassination while I learned about it outside during gym class...it was a cold day

HOBBY NEWS

The big news is the approaching of Origins II, or for us Diplomacy fans, Diplocon IX. I have used up a whole two pages as an insert to provide the readers with a copy for registration. I don't know how many don't get Avalon Hill's The General, but consider this as a news service from Impassable...

I, John Boyer, will be attending my fifth Diplocon convention at Origins II, and I would like to be able to take someone along to Baltimore for the trip. I am going to (hopefully) get a double at the downtown Holiday Inn in Baltimore (the official Origins II hotel for participants who won't be staying at the dorms on John Hopkins). So, if anyone wants to share a room with me, let me know ASAP!! You don't need to share a room to ride with me, however, and I'm willing to take up to three people provided they stop here for me to pick them up in Carlisle.

I will be going sometime on Friday to attend the Friday night activities and stay through Sunday. I am entering their Diplomacy tournament (heaven forbids!) and will be attempting to run a multi-player civil war game (see Impassable #64 for more details). So, outside of that, I will be wandering around, trying to write a good news report for once (for Impassable), buying a few, selected games and just having fun...

John Hendry writes to say that he is getting some good results from my plug in last issue for his Kingmaker postal game. It should be noted that John will soon be moving back home when school ends May 15th: 17 Price Rd., Peabody, MA 01960.

Copies of the 1974 IDA Handbook are still available from me for \$3.00 to non-members and \$2.00 for members of I.D.A. Make check or money-order to: International Diplomacy Association. Copies of the 1975 IDA Handbook are available from Edi Birsan, 35-35 75th St., Apt. 302, Jackson Hgts., NY 11372 for \$2.50 for non-members and \$2.00 for members, I believe (I can't verify my memory by finding it in print, but I'm fairly sure of those figures).

The IDA Publisher's Handbook is available from Len Lakofka, 644 West Briar Place, Chicago, IL 60657 for \$2.50 to non-members and \$2.00 to members of I.D.A. All funds must be made out to: International Diplomacy Association...

Well, Gordon Anderson has come out with more of his
(cont. inside back cover)

GAME OPENINGS

LIAISONS DANGEREUSES, #69. Len Lakofka, 644 West Briar Place, Chicago, IL 60657. Ditto. Has openings for the novice. Game Fee is \$7.00 which includes cost of sub. ARRAKIS, #56. David Head, Box 1231, Huntsville, Ont., POA 1K0, Canada. Mimeo. Reg. Dip. openings for GF of \$2.00 plus sub. Sub rate is 1¢ per page plus postage. Send lump sum. Inquire about payment with U.S. Funds, or, try the I.S.E. via Edi Birsan, 35-35 75th St., Apt. 302, Jackson Hgts., NY 11372.

RURITANIA, #23. Tony Watson, 201 Minnesota, Las Vegas, NV 89107. Ditto. Sub is 4/\$1.00 which includes entry in one game. There is a deposit for entry, however. Has openings in reg. dip., deposit is \$2.00, need to sub. Variant dip: Four Empires Diplomacy, no gamefee, just sub and \$1.00 deposit (refunded at end of game).

CENTURION, #20. Russell Fox, 5160 Donna Avenue, Tarzana, CA 91356. Xerox. Sorry for misspelling your name in previous plugs! Has openings in reg. dip. GF is \$1.00 plus sub. Sub rate is 11/\$3.00. Keeps a regular and lengthy column on gamezines in the hobby.

THE EXPONENT, #26. Fred Brenner, 2821 West 12th St., Brooklyn, NY 11224. Mimeo. Has a few openings left. No gamefee except you must sub or trade. Sub rate is 10/\$2.00.

THE POUCH, Vol. IV, #12, Issue 90. Gil Neiger, Box 4293, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. Has openings in reg. dip. Game fee is \$6.00 or \$1 plus sub. Sub rate is 8/\$2.00. Xerox.

REBUS SIC STANTIBUS, Vol. 1, Number 5. Published by the New England Society of Cynics, 65 Winter Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301. Has openings in reg. dip. I can't find any mention of a gamefee, so what I believe is that all you need to do is to subscribe. Sub rate is 12/\$4.00. Very well printed mimeo gamezine! Really tried to make me blush with the latest gamezine plug column calling my Impassable a "classic". Well, if there's a new classic coming along, it's Rebus Sic Stantibus! Oh yes, make the checks out to the society!

BLACK HOLE, #35. Douglas Reif, 67 Groseverner Rd., Kenmore, NY 14223. Sub rate is 11/\$2.00. No openings, but when a guy plugs you as a jock of Diplomacy publishing, you can't refuse to plug back! Ditto. A nice little gamezine without the hang-ups of larger circulation zines and over-blown egos...

1970, Winter 1920

Note: Due to an error not noticed by Russia, I'll have to postpone Spring 1921 to next deadline.

Winter 1920:

AUSTRIA(Beyerlein): SP

GERMANY(Mahler): SP

ITALY(Phillips): B A Rom (Ita owns Lon, not Russia)

RUSSIA(Kelly): SP, lost 1 (Did not gain Lon)

SPRING 1921 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976.

Winter 1920 Positions:

Austria: a bul, a vie, a tyr, a bud, a ser, a tri (6);

Germany: a mun, f hol, f kie (3); Italy: f aeg, f ion, f gre, f adr, a ven, a pie, a bur, a bel, f eng, f lon, a yor, f lvp, a rom (13); Russia: a arm, a smy, a con, a boh, a sil, a ber, f bal, a edi, f nth, f bar, f nwg, f nwy (12).

Press--

Russia to Germany and Austria: Alright gentlemen, since you object to my winning this game, we'll let Italy win. I hope that makes you happier.

Rome(Syr): With the activation of the 18th Wave of Military Reserves it appears that Italy has tapped the dregs of its human resources. The Classes of '26 and '27 have been stripped of their more robust members, but they appear no more than a sickly lot of children in uniform as they march north from Rome towards the front.

Marseilles(Mar): "Avoid traps."

1971Dbu, Winter 1917

Errors: Germany didn't have Fleet Edinburgh, but did have Fleet Clyde (which moved to Liverpool). That leaves him with only 20 units. Also, he has 23 centers, not 22. I counted them wrong. So, Germany builds 3 units.

GM Note: I am postponing Spring 1918 because of several requests for voting on draws. I myself no longer enjoy gamesmastering this game (which is probably why I make more errors here than in my other games) and I believe the players also aren't enjoying this game. Since this is a variant with little meaning to anyone, I am going to make a change in how we vote. Instead of requiring a unanimous

vote, I will take the majority of supply centers for the approval of a draw vote. Germany has 23 centers, Italy has 18 centers, China 15, Japan 10, and Austria has 14 centers. England won't count. There have been several separate proposals on ending this game. The proposal receiving a majority will end the game. If none gets a majority, I will ask other publishers for any precedent on ending this game arbitrarily on my own. If more than one proposal gets a majority, the highest will win and end the game. The proposals to vote for are:

Proposal #1: 5-way draw (Ger/Ita/Aus/Chi/Jap)

Proposal #2: 4-way draw (Ger/Ita/Chi/Jap)

Proposal #3: 3-way draw (Jap/Chi/Ger)

Proposal #4: 2-way draw (Ger/Ita)

Proposal #5: 3-way draw (Aus/Ita/Ger)

These have all been proposed by the players of this game. You must vote yes or no to all proposals. No vote will be counted as a yes vote. (Example: Proposal #3 gets yes votes from Ger/Jap with no votes from Ita/Aus/Chi. Results are 38-32 in favor and proposal passes.)

Winter 1917:

AUSTRIA(Tilson): R F Bla, A Jor

CHINA(Swies): SP

ENGLAND(C.D.): SP

GERMANY(Proujansky): B A Mun, A Ber, A Pos

ITALY(Osmanson): B F Rom, A Ven, A Nap

JAPAN(Drews): B F Osa

SPRING 1918 Orders and Votes for all 5 Proposals are due Thursday, May 27, 1976.

Winter 1917 Positions:

Austria: a arm, a bag, a con, a smy (4); China: f tim obb, f tim, f sia, f mal, f jav, f ben, a raj, a snd, a dec, a afg, a ira, a nep, a kan, a bma, f can (15); England: f ire (1); Germany: a stp, a oms, a sev, a mos, a ukr, a rum, a gal, a clu, a bud, a vie, a gas, f den, f bre, a par, f eng, f nat, f nwg, f lvp, a hol, f nth, a mun, a ber, a pos (23); Italy: f cey, f per, f win, f wes, f mor, a bul, a tri, f egy(sc), f aeg, f red, a yem, f ion, a por, a pen, a mar, f rom, a ven, a nap (18); Japan: a oms, f npa, f npa obb, a skg, f mad, f ein, f mid, f s.pa, a sib, f osa (10).

The office secretary boasts she can type 40 words a minute, give or take a couple of minutes.

1972BW, Summer/Fall 1921

Correction: Francis McIlvaine's address is really 7900 Sisson Hwy., Eden, NY 14057! Sorry Francis!

Error: Forgot to underline Turk order of f spa(sc)-mid (er, make that, slash the dash!)

Summer 1921: Russia retreats f aeg-con, and a gal-war.

Fall 1921:

FRANCE(McIlvaine): a mar/spa, a bur/bel, a hol s a bur/bel/r/(ruh, otb)

GERMANY(Davies): a ber-mun, a kie s rus f hel-hol

RUSSIA(Knudsen): f hel-hol, f nth/bel, f con h, a par-bre, a ukr/sev, a war/gal, a pie-tyr, a boh s a vie, f eng-mid, f nat s f eng-mid, f iri s f eng-mid, a vie s a pie-tyr/a/

TURKEY(Abbott): f spa(sc)-por, f wes/spa(sc), f tyn/tus, f adr s f aeg-ion, a ven/tus, a tri s a bud-vie, a gal/boh, a bul-rum, a bud-vie, a rum-sev, f aeg-ion, f smy-aeg, f bla s a rum-sev

AUTUMN and WINTER 1921 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976.

Fall 1921 Supply Center Chart:

France: ~~bte~~, mar, ~~bot~~, ~~hol~~ (1) r2

Germany: kie, ber, mun (3) b1

Russia: stp, war, mos, ~~mun~~, den, swe, nwy, edi, bel, par, lon, lvp, hol, bre, con (14) b3, lost 1

Turkey: ~~con~~, ank, smy, gre, bul, ser, tri, vie, sev, bud, rum, spa, tun, ven, rom, nap, por (16) b2, will be 1 short.

1973BU, Spring 1923/Draw Vote

COA: John Hendry, 17 Price Rd., Peabody, MA 01960, eff. May 15th.

GM Note: Italy goes into civil disorder

2-Way Draw between Ger/Eng: Defeated by one "no" vote by Russia.

Spring 1923:

AUSTRIA(Kovalcik): a boh h/u/, a tri s tur a ven, a vie s a boh, a bud s a gal, a rum s a gal, a gal s a boh

ENGLAND(Greenwell): a edi-lvp, a spa-tus, f wes c a spa-tus, f tyn c a spa-tus, f tun s f tyn, f nth-eng, f swe-nwy, a lvp-wal, a stp/mos, a mos/sev

GERMANY(Barents): f naf-mid, a war s a ukr, a ukr s a

sil-gal, a mun/boh, a tyr s a mun-boh, f tus-lyo, a
 pie s eng a spa-tus, a sil/gal, a ber/sil, a kie/mun
 RUSSIA(Hendry): a sev h
 TURKEY(Blank): f con-bla, a ven s ita a rom, f adr s f
 ion, f nap s ita a rom, f ion s f nap
 ITALY(C.D.): a rom h

FALL 1923 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976

Press--

Sevastopol to London & Berlin: You guys are going to
 have to kill me to stop me from voting against the draw.
 Come and get me, you chickenshit (deleted)!

Sevastopol to Constantinople: Let's hear the same spirit
 from you!

1973CZec, Spring 1730

COA: Howard Mahler, 135 Bayard Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540.

GM Note: France goes into civil disorder for lack of
 players who want their throat slit...don't blame them!

Spring 1730:

ENGLAND(Kadlecek): f yor(wc) s f sco(ec), f sco(ec) s f
 lon-nth, f lon/nth, f ire/nat, f ice s f ire-nat

FRANCE(C.D.): a net h, a ndy h, a rhi h/a/, a tou h, a
 sav h/a/

OTTOMAN EMPIRE(Mahler): a bor/tou, f lyo s a mil-sav, a
 mil-sav, a vie-ven, a tyr/rhi, a mor-vie, a rum-wal,
 f bri/ndy, f sar s f wes, f sty s f bar, f bar s f
 wes, f wes s f ara(sc), f cen-tun, f con-aeg, a ast
 s a kie, a kie s a ast, f ara(sc) s f wes

POLAND(Rocamora): f nth-eng, f cly/nat, f nwg s f cly-
 nat, f den-nth, f chr s f den-nth, f ska s f den-nth,
 a got-den, a est s a mos, a mos h, a min/mol, a kra/
 mol, a hol/net, a col-rhi, a han-col, a kas s a col-
 rhi, a pom-han, a boh h

SPAIN(Swies): f sev s f gra, f gib s f mid, f gra s a
 mad-ara, a mad/ara, f mid s f gib

FALL 1730 Orders and 2-way Concession Vote to Pol/Ott
 (Requested by Pol) are due Thursday, May 27, 1976

Howcomeeverytime we'redrivingsomewhereinahurrythetraffic
 alwaysbacksuplikethis?

Idunnobut maybeyoucouldlearntotypebetter?

1974HN, Autumn/Winter 1907

Error: Overlooked the fact that Russia gained Sweden for 10 supply centers.

Autumn 1907: Germany retreats a mun-ruh.

Winter 1907:

AUSTRIA(Osmanson): R F Ion

ENGLAND(Fujihara): B F Edi

FRANCE(McKeon): B A Par

GERMANY(Kelly): R F Bal

RUSSIA(Blank): B F Sev, will be 2 short

SPRING 1908 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976

Winter 1907 Positions:

Austria: a gre, a tri, a tyr, a boh, a gal (5); England: a stp, f bar, f lon, f nth, f edi (5); France: a ber, a bur, a ven, a tus, a bel, f eng, f mid, f tun, f nap, f rom, a par (11); Germany: a ruh, a kie, f hel (3); Russia: a mun, a pru, f swe, f smy, a war, a liv, a mos, f sev (8).

1974HY, Summer/Fall 1907

Summer 1907: Russia retreats f con-bla

Fall 1907:

FRANCE(McLendon): f edi h, a lvp/yor, a wal-lon, f eng s a wal-lon

GERMANY(Fanelli): f lon/nth/a/, a yor-h, a par-bre, a hol s a ruh-bel, a ruh-bel, a kie / a ber, a ber / a kie, a war / ita a gal/r/(liv, sil, pru, otb)

ITALY(Kendter): f mid s ger a par-bre, f spa(sc)-por, a gas-spa, a gal / ger a war, a bud/rum, a ser s a con-bul, a con-bul, f aeg s a con-bul, f eas/smy, f ion c a apu-gre, a apu-gre

RUSSIA(Gallagher): a mos-war, a ukr s a mos-war, a ank/smy, f nth/bel, f den/kie, a swe/ber, f bal c a swe-ber, f bla/rum, a rum/gal, f bul(ec) / f bla-rum/a/

AUTUMN/WINTER 1907 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976

Fall 1907 Supply Center Chart:

France: ~~bte~~, ~~bpr~~, ~~spa~~, lvp, lon, edi (3) rl

Germany: hom, hol, bel, ~~edi~~, ~~lon~~, ~~war~~, par, bre (7) sp, lost 2

Italy: hom, tun, tri, vie, gre, ser, bud, bul, mar, por,

spa (13) b2

Russia: mos, stp, sev, war, swe, nwy, rum, ank, con,
smy, den (11) b2, lost 1

1974Nd1, Spring 1023

ENGLAND(Osmanson): a mon h, a glo-oxf, a che h, f cab s
f car-nsg, a bue h, a mer s a mon, f dyf s f car-nsg,
f bri s f car-nsg, f car-nsg

MUNSTER(Hyatt): f nsg ~~h~~/r/(wic, otb), f wex s f nsg, f
ssg s f nsg h, f stg s f nsg h, f tra-trb, a plu h,
a tar h, a dub h, a kil h, a wat h, a arm-dow, a dal
s a arm-dow, a oma-spe, a ern-don, f min s f wif-isl,
f wif-isl, f sky/sut(nc), f nmi/dur

ORKNEY(C.D.): f man h, f kin h, f isl ~~h~~/a/

SCOTLAND(Fanelli): a dur ~~s~~ a lis-sut, a lis/sut, a dow ~~h~~
/a/, f sis s eng f car-nsg

SUMMER/FALL 1023 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976

Press--

From Melchior Coco, Historian to Ben Corrim, Coordinator
of Project NDL: Please send a transport unit to this base
as soon as possible. It is imperative that I leave here
at once. The British Isles warp has gotten completely out
of control, and is now threatening to branch off into an
entirely different time-line. I do not wish to be left
behind in a Chaotic world. I have confirmed my original
suspicions that King Mark of Munster and his flunkys, the
League of Irish Minstrels are agents of the Chaotics.
This group has infiltrated every court in Europe, for the
express purpose of disrupting the continuity of our world.
Please hurry or I may be cut off from you entirely. Yours,
Melchoir.

Dundrennan, May 6, 1023: Today a half-dozen Scottish
warriors landed here in a small craft. They claimed that
they were the survivors of the abandoned Army of Down.
They incited the people to riot against the King, calling
him an incompetent fool and arguing that he should be
overthrown so that the Scots might successfully withstand
the upcoming invasion by Munster. The rabble began a
march in the direction of Scone. The garrison is nowhere
to be found.

STONEHENGE: Hath man's folly continues to upset the
peace of the world. Fools! Fools!

1975G, Spring 1907

Error: Russia doesn't have two a ser's, but 1 and 1 army in sev.

COA: Tom Cooper, 6192 Preston Haven Dr., Dallas, TX 75230; and, Alex Sabo, 2302 $\frac{1}{2}$ Donald Ave., Youngstown, OH 44509, eff. May 22nd.

Spring 1907:

AUSTRIA(Hinmon): a vie/gal/r/(boh, otb)

ENGLAND(Cooper, T.): a stp h, f bar-nwg, f iri-lvp, f mid-wes, f bre-mid

FRANCE(Kendter): a mar-spa, a spa-por, f lvp-cly

GERMANY(Amer): a ber/pru, a tyr s ita a tri-vie/nso/, a bur s a pie-mar, a pie-mar, a gas s a bur-mar/nso/, f eng-wal, a sil s a ber-pru, f fin s eng a stp

ITALY(Young): f rom-tyn, f adr-ion, f gre h, a alb-ser, a ven s a tri, a tri s rus a bud-vie

RUSSIA(Sabo): a liv/pru, a mos/liv, a rum/gal, a ser-bud, f bul(ec)-con, a war s a liv-pru, a sev/mos, a bud-vie, f ion-tun

SUMMER/FALL 1907 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976

1975T, Spring 1906

AUSTRIA(Mahler): a ukr s a war, a war s tur a mos, a pru/sil/r/(sil, otb), a tyr-pie, a boh s ger a mun, a pie-tus, a ven s tur a rom, f gre s tur f aeg-ion/nso/, f adr s tur f aeg-ion/nso/

ENGLAND(Fujihara): a stp s a liv h, f bot s a liv, a liv s a ber-pru, f bal-ber, a ber-pru, f den-bal, f hol h, f lon-nth, a edi h

FRANCE(Lawson): a spa-mar, f tun s f tyn, f tyn s ita f nap, a mar-bur, a kie s a ruh-mun, a ruh/mun, f bre-mid

GERMANY(Warden): a mun h

ITALY(Birsan): f nap s fra f tun-ion/nso/

TURKEY(Brooks): a mos h, a ank-arm, a smy-apu, a rom s a smy-apu, f ion c a smy-apu, f aeg c a smy-apu

SUMMER/FALL 1906 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976

Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we drop a bunch of clothes hangers!

Dermatologists make rash judgments.

Orthopedists get all the breaks!

1975CS, Summer/Fall 1904

Summer 1904: France retreats a bur-mar; Russia retreats a ser-gre.

Fall 1904:

AUSTRIA(Blank): a ser s f bul(sc)-gre, f bul(sc)/gre,
a tyr-tri, f alb s a tyr-tri, a bud/rum, a vie/gal
ENGLAND(Birsan): f lon/nth/a/, a yor/lon
FRANCE(Stephens): a pic-par, f eng-lon, f wal s f eng-lon,
f iri-mid, a mar/spa
GERMANY(Bear): f nth-edl, a lvp/yor, a bel-hol, a bur-ruh,
a mun-kie, a ber-h
ITALY(Kador): a ven-tyr, f adr-ven, a tun/spa, f wes c
a tun-spa
RUSSIA(Albano): a arm-ank, a smy s a arm-ank, a gre/bul,
a rum s a gre-bul, f bla s a gre-bul, a sev s a rum,
a war/gal, a den-swe, f bal-den, f nwy/nth
TURKEY(Kendter, Sr.): a ank-con

WINTER 1904 Orders are due Thursday, May 27, 1976

Fall 1904 Supply Center Chart:

Austria: hom, ser, ~~gre~~, bul, ~~ph~~ (5) r1
England: ~~lon~~, ~~lvp~~ (0) r2, out of game
France: hom, spa, por, lon (6) b1
Germany: hom, hol, bel, edi, lvp (7) b1
Italy: hom, tun (4) sp
Russia: hom, swe, nwy, ank, ~~ph~~, den, smy, ~~gre~~,
rum (11) b1
Turkey: ~~ph~~, con (1) sp

WORD PLAY

ORIGINS

CITEX 76

COMPLEX ALLIANCES

by Len Lakofka

Numerous articles have appeared on the 'Opening' for various countries. Edi Birsan is especially noted for his Italian and German openings and both have influenced the play of those countries. Unfortunately mass alliances, that is, unions of 3, 4 or perhaps 5 countries have not been discussed in depth. Forming a proper lattice of alliances can allow for radical opening play that would be disastrous if the groundwork were not properly laid. Take an Italian-Austrian alliance for example. Normally these countries must get at least one build each to function--a total of three ideally. Yet if Austria and Italy can gain Russian and probably German support they can make very bold 1901 moves. The diplomatic atmosphere must be one that is anti-French and anti-Turkish in the Opening. England and Russia must then be checked in the Middle Game so that the Central Powers go into the End Game together.

The Opening is one designed to attack France and Turkey early on. This is done via: A Vie-Bud, A Bud-Ser, F Tri-Alb; A Ven-Pie, A Rom-Ven, F Nap-Tyr. This is fairly standard except for the move to Tyr. Russia should be moving F Sev-Bla, A War-Gal!, A Mos-Ukr; Germany should be trying for Burgundy, whether he makes it or not, while going to Holland. Initially England must be in on this attack with a move to English Channel, for example. In the Fall of 1901 Russia takes Rumania with the Army from Galacia; Austria plays A Ser-Gre!, A Bud-Ser!, F Alb-Ion; Italy plays F Tyr-Wes!, A Pie-Mar, A Ven-Apu! Italy gains nothing and Austria gains one and perhaps two. However, the Italian/Austrian pieces are in an excellent position for a 1902 offensive. France will be beset from three sides as will Turkey. Spring 1902 calls for F Ion (C) Ita A Apu-Tun! as the key move. If two builds are given to Austria, one should be a fleet, if only one build, then build a fleet anyway. The real danger is from a Russian stab, but in an alliance he has more to gain in the long run than from a stab at this point. The Austrian fleet, of course, goes to Albania. If Greece has not fallen to Austria it attacks Greece, otherwise Fall 1902 calls for F Ion-Eas, F Alb-Ion as part of a 1903 'Lepanto'!

If the entire board is playing an optimum game there is little or no danger that France/Turkey will fall too fast and give Russia/England too big of a head start.

What is crucial is that a war between Russian and England be started with Germany-Austria attacking Russia, and Germany-Italy attacking England. Germany will not gain too much because he is fighting both England and Russia.

Obviously, aggressive English/Russian players will try to turn the advantage of the Opening game into an advantage in the Middle game. If this happens then one of these two powers will likely have the best shot at a win. That alternative is what holds Germany-Austria-Italy together. If any of those three fight England and/or Russia will surely gain most.

When you plan an opening you must look deep into the End game and form alliances/non-aggression pacts in the OPENING GAME that will get you to your End Game goal. Worrying about the Opening for your country alone or in alliance with only one other country will not yield a winning result.

((Impassable thanks Len for one of his fine articles! For those of you who are novices, Len always has openings in his own gamezine, *Laisons Dangereuses*. His address is: 644 West Briar Place, Chicago, IL 60657.))

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This issue we have a rebuttal type of letter from Rod Walker on Lew Pulsipher's comments of last issue.
From Rod Walker:

"Lew Pulsipher and I have been going round and round about the hobby's history for some time. He has, for instance, been lecturing me for a considerable period that the attempts by "TDA" to deceive hobby opinion in 1971 are no longer relevant in dealing with different attempts by the same group to do the same thing in 1975 or 1976. I submit that historical patterns are always relevant. For instance: this country did not have to go through Watergate to learn that Richard Nixon was a creep. We had but to examine his career from 1946 to 1962 and then vote for Hubert Humphrey. (I was one who knew; when Nixon was inaugurated, I resigned my commission rather than serve under him as CinC.)

Anyway, "the past is dead" is an anti-historical bias in my view. It denies two essential tenets of true historicism; first, that the past is a living and essential part of the present; second, that the past is

something which must be actively (although selectively) preserved. The discipline of history (to which I've also devoted 3 years of graduate work, by the way) is deeply split over issues such as these.

I do not buy Lew's assertion that the postal hobby has changed fundamentally. Changes are primarily of degree, not of kind. As the hobby becomes larger, the problem of communication becomes more difficult. I do not see that Lew disagrees with my premise that the only feasible way to insure that articles reach most of the postal Diplomacy public is to have them widely reprinted.

His sole quibble is one of "permission". I can conceive of one case in which this should be sought. If someone has done or created something which he is pushing commercially...the IDA Handbooks are good examples...there should be no reprinting without written permission, of course. On the other hand, there should be enough copies of such things to go around.

As to other items, I see no particular harm. Lew says he can provide examples if we wish. I certainly wish. I am never impressed by vague references to unspecified evidence. Let's see the nitty-gritty of the thing and make a judgement.

Now, as to reprinting for the purpose of attack. Anyone who prints something lays himself open to being hoist on his own petard. I see no sense in protecting him by the contrived requirement that he has to consent to it. I have reprinted some items for the precise purpose of showing how ridiculous or inaccurate they are. Lew's letter is rather circumlocutiously and delicately referring to that fact. Presented with the same situation, I would do the same thing. If the hobby is having a piece of bilge shoved down its throat, the author of the said bilge deserves no protection whatsoever from having the whistle blown. I am not going to quibble over niceties of protocol in such cases. Even if I were to admit (which I do not) that some sort of moral principle gives an author unlimited jurisdiction over written material clearly in the public domain, I would never concede that the same principle applies to the author(s) of deliberate claptrap.

Those whose little bubbles are thus popped would do well to ponder the advantage of giving up any scheme to fool some of the people all of the time. Meanwhile, I eagerly await Lew's promised specific examples. I would love to see just how big is the teapot all this tempest has blown up in.

#end#

VERHANDELN
by Lew Pulsipher

Before beginning the main body of this column, I have a couple responses to Ablehnen #3. Those who have already learned to ignore Robert Sacks ought to skip the following paragraphs. Those who think Lew Pulsipher ought to be ignored won't be reading this anyway.

First, Walter Luc Haas asked me to say something about his problems with Sacks for the benefit of those who don't receive Walter's Bumm. What Sacks means in his accusations of monopolistic or exclusionary policies by the World Variant Bank is that the WVB won't do what Sacks wishes. In Bumm 13 Walter explained his position. The following are excerpts: "It was explained to Robert Sacks several times...that he has nothing to do with the WVB, that the WVB is strictly neutral and not linked with any organization such as IDA, TIDA, etc., nor with the office of the MNC, and that his discussions of WVB matters, his polls/ballots/bills/votes [in DVC] are of no use but rather make things more complicated...I agree that a discussion zine about variants and variant-matters would be interesting, at least, maybe necessary too. But what the 'DVC' (or Robert Sacks) is trying to do now, is to get power and influence over institutions and people, who not only don't want this, but also deny that the 'DVC' has any right whatsoever to do so...I am sure the WVB is interested to cooperate with whomever as long as its neutrality is guaranteed." The problem is that Sacks demands subservience to DVC, not neutrality.

Second, we have Sacks' idiotic notions about threats and improper procedures. A "threat" often exists only in the mind of the person perceiving it. It is my custom to often let people know ahead of time when I plan an action they might not agree with or might wish to respond to. Thus I informed Sacks that I would comment in Verhandeln on his unfair criticisms of IDA. In the same vein I told him I would place somewhere else my letter dissociating myself from DVC if it were not printed where it belonged, in Phoenix. This was not a gratuitous precaution nor a threat, merely a statement of fact. Nick Ulanov's final letter to DVC was not printed because it was allegedly non-substantive--read, not in accordance with Sacks' views. Dick Vedder's comments for Phoenix were frequently suppressed; when he resigned he felt compelled to send copies of his final comments to DVC members individually. I would rather my comment went in Phoenix; but if it is/was sup-

pressed (I haven't found out) what recourse do I have but to go elsewhere? Unfortunately, Sacks perceives any disagreements with him as a threat to him.

Then Sacks turns around and complains that he was not informed of something ahead of time, even though he calls it threat when he is informed. At any rate, my letter was written for publication in Phoenix, and would not be in the hands of DVC members until several weeks after it reached Sacks. Since I knew the final DW deadline, I knew Sacks would receive my letter before any statement appeared publicly (DW was where the statement was made). Sacks' accusation that he was not informed until after the public statement appeared is false. I might also ask publicly why Sacks has not pursued the course he outlined in his letter to the Verhandel'n publishers stating that he expected my IDA-DVC column would be "malicious and non-factual" (complete text in Speculum) and that he would take the matter to the IDA Judiciary Comm. if it was. Was this a threat, a cheap means of trying to squash criticism (cheap and a threat because it was not carried out)? If Sacks believes it was not malicious and was factual, why is he making such wild accusations and lying about it and about me?

* * * * *

Verhandel'n #8, An Annual Publisher's Survey?

Some people cringe at the word "survey", but one can't ignore the value of the information you can collect via a survey and in no other way. It seems to me that people who are interested in the progress of the hobby as a whole would benefit from an annual survey which indicates publishing and GMing trends; and to some people the information would be interesting to know, whether useful or not. An example of how uncertain we are even about major trends occurred this summer, when one knowledgeable person told me that many zines were experiencing circulation decreases, while so far as I could tell from the half-dozen zines I received, circulations were rising. I was also told that many GM's were having a hard time filling their open games. Aside from asking many publishers (a survey, in other words), there are few ways to keep track of what is happening. One can look at the increasing number of GM's with openings in the "Need A Game" column of DW and expect that it will be harder to fill a game (though which comes first, the large number of openings or the difficulty because there aren't enough players, is impossible to tell). The old Archives Publishers Survey was a compilation of circu-

lation statistics only, and was discontinued because it encouraged circulation races without providing much worthwhile information.

A one-time survey would be much less valuable than an annual poll, with many questions asked on every poll. With the latter those who are interested in such things can have a chance to discover and take into account hobby trends. Such a survey could be printed directly in Diplomacy World, and the results, in a later DW, would be available as data for hobby historians as well as for more immediate use. Walt Buchanan would be the logical person to compile the survey, but I've already broached the idea to him and he hasn't volunteered. If I wasn't going to be moving around I would do it. But until someone comes forward, this is no more than an idea.

Below are some questions that might be asked on such a survey. No doubt if anyone follows up this idea, he'll be able to think of more.

(Give information as of the middle of a week)(No figures would be connected to any individual) Total circulation____, #players____, #traders____, #non-player/non-trader subscribers____. Date began publishing____, GMing____, playing FTF____, playing by mail____. Date current zine began____. Age____. Marital status____. Are you a full-time student____. Are you the only person who regularly produces your zine (don't count guest GM's unless they type masters)____. Do you use assistant or guest GM's____. About how long did it take to fill the most recent standard postal Dip game you started: less than a month____, 1-2 months____, 3 or more months____. Have you a current game which has been open for 3 or more months without being filled____. # standard Dip games in progress in your pubs____, # variants____, # other postal games____. Do you presently have openings in standard Dip____, variants____, other postal games____. Have you read the IDA Publishers Handbook)____. Had you before you started publishing____. Do you have difficulty finding replacements for standard Dip: always____, often____, seldom____, never____. Do you charge a refundable game deposit____. What fee system do you use: lump sum____, sub only____, sub and lump sum____, sub and fee per turn____. Do you think there is a need for an organization for GM's and publishers only____? What substitute/replacement system do you use: List for entire zine____, list for each game____, one standby per position____. AND SO ON. #end#

((Impassable would appreciate comments on this poll.))

HOBBY NEWS, CONT.

prattle and false statements, not the least being his CITEX-76 convention to be held this August. He says that DipCon IX is an integral part of Citex and that DipCon is the only nationally and internationally recognized Diplomacy tournament! Well, if he wants to believe that his DipCon is in the tradition of the now-called Diplocon, that's his business, but I say to everyone to boycott his convention. Origins II is the site of the hobby-wide and IDA-backed Diplocon--this is where the heavies are going to be--not in Chicago during August, but in July in Baltimore!

I sense a quieting of the hobby, but can't pinpoint the reasons why...I am not for stirring up feuds just to have news to report, but as they say, "a calm before the storm"! Anyhow I want to say now that I will be trying to actively set up a news source made up of several Diplomacy oriented people in the hobby. If I don't contact you, there is no reason why you couldn't contact me about your pet project, whatever you have for sale, or about any gaming convention being run in your area or under your jurisdiction. I like to hear about it! Anything worth printing will be printed, believe me!


Bob Fanelli, for example, has promised me an article on postal D&D. Though I am not into D&D by any means, I realize that many of the Diplomacy players also play D&D. So, an article on postal D&D will be of interest to at least some of my readers.

My sources on I.D.A. has apparently dried up...I am supposed to be a member, but I have yet to get any issue of Diplomacy Review this year! But, I read of Vol. 5, #2 having come out, so the problem must be with their bookkeeping. Also, not being a member of the I.D.A. Council does cut down in your first-hand knowledge! Oh well...

Probably everyone is suffering from Spring Fever in the hobby, which might explain the state of quiet or non-happening...but, come Diplocon IX, the hobby will once again roar to life, I'm sure.

Well, news is a bit thin. I could say more about Origins II, but what I'm photocopying and reprinting should be plenty enough to help those who want to go. Don't forget! If you want to stop in Carlisle and to travel with me to Baltimore, let me know as soon as possible! Also, I'll need a roommate to share a double.

Hopefully, some more news of a more diversified nature will turn up next issue. Until then, peace!

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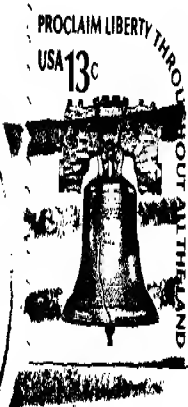
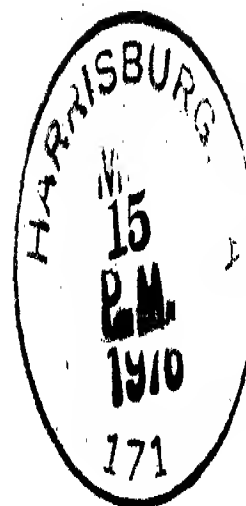
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